

September 10, 2002

Federal Communications Commission  
Commission Secretary, Ms. Marlene H. Dortch  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street SW  
CY-B402  
Washington, D.C. 20554  
Re: Proceeding 03-16

Dear Ms. Dortch:

I am writing to express my support for SBC Ameritech's entry into Michigan's long distance market. There is no doubt in my mind that SBC's entry into the long distance market will save Michigan residents money and provide them with freedom to choose among more providers.

It is clear there is competition in the local market. Residents can choose from several phone companies including AT&T, WorldCom and TDS Metrocom. All of these companies, just like SBC, offer competitive prices. The Michigan Public Service Commission's (MPSC) 2002 Competitive Market Conditions Survey found that local telephone competition tripled in less than two years. I am confident that the long distance market will produce similar results, which will, of course, produce similar benefits for consumers.

In the meantime, people across the state are losing out on valuable savings and choices because there are no incentives for long distance companies to compete. We are paying the price while people in more than a dozen other states are enjoying the benefits of full competition. It is my hope that the MPSC will act quickly and recommend that Michigan join the many states already enjoying increased competition. I would also urge the Federal Communications Commission to approve SBC's application, as SBC's entry into Michigan's long distance market will force other phone companies to offer competitive packages and prices. The sooner SBC Ameritech is approved to offer long distance in Michigan, the sooner we can enjoy lower phone bills, one stop shopping, and more choices for local and long distance telephone service.

Sincerely,

William H. Liebold, II  
President